

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of associating a particular path defined in a page description language specification with a plurality of special attributes, comprising the steps of:

monitoring a first text string defined by a first page description language text command in the specification for a first special character or a first special string of characters, the first special character or the first special string of characters being indicative of a first special attribute;

monitoring a second text string defined by a second page description language text command in the specification for a second special character or a second special string of characters, the second special character or the second special string of characters being indicative of a second special attribute;

responsive to a detection of the first special character or the first special string of characters in the first text string, identifying a path defined by a page description language path command and having a predetermined relationship with the first text command in the specification as the particular path associated with the first special attribute; and

responsive to a detection of the second special character or the second special string of characters in the second text string, identifying the path defined by the page description language path command and having a predetermined relationship with the second text command in the specification as the particular path associated with the second special attribute.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined relationship is satisfied by the path command being the first path command to follow the first and second text commands in the specification.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined relationship is satisfied by the path command being grouped with the first and second text commands in the specification.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first special attribute is associated with a first merge file and wherein the second special attribute is associated with a second merge file.

5. (Original) A method for wrapping data to an arbitrary path defined by a page description language, comprising the steps of:

- (a) designing a path defined in a page description language specification as a wrapping path, the wrapping path having a wrapping-path boundary;
- (b) processing the specification to produce a template bitmap, the template bitmap being a bitmap or raster-data representation of a template image defined by the specification;
- (c) associating a block of text with the wrapping path;
- (d) associating an external bitmap with the wrapping path;
- (e) merging the external bitmap into the template bitmap, the external bitmap having an external-bitmap boundary;
- (f) adding the external-bitmap boundary to the wrapping-path boundary, forming a composite boundary; and
- (g) merging bitmap representations of the text from the block of text, according to the composite boundary and according to a predefined flow rule, into the template bitmap to create a merged bitmap.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the merging step (e) includes the step of merging the external bitmap into the template bitmap according to the wrapping-path boundary and according to the predefined flow rule.

7. (Original) A method for wrapping data to an arbitrary path defined by a page description language, comprising the steps of:

- designating a path defined in a page description language specification as a wrapping path, the wrapping path having a boundary;
- defining a first graphics state for the path;

defining a second graphics state for the path;

processing the specification to produce a template bitmap, the template bitmap being a bitmap or raster-data representation of a template image defined by the specification;

associating a text file with the wrapping path, the text file including a first block of text separate from a second block of text by a field delimiter;

creating first bitmap representations of the first block of text by applying the graphics state to the first block of text;

merging the first bitmap representations of the text, according to the boundary and according to a predefined flow rule, into the template;

creating second bitmap representation of the second block of text by applying the second graphics state to the second block of text; and

merging the second bitmap representation of the text, according to the boundary and according to the predefined flow rule, into the template bitmap.

8. (Original) A method for wrapping data to an arbitrary path defined by a page description language, comprising the steps of:

designating a path defined in a page description language specification as a wrapping path, the wrapping path having a boundary;

defining a graphics state for the path;

processing the specification to produce a template bitmap, the template bitmap being a bitmap or raster-data representation of a template image defined by the specification;

associating a text block with the wrapping path, the text block including a plurality of words;

replacing all occurrences of a predetermined word in the text block with a substitute word;

creating bitmap representations of the text block by applying the graphics state to the text block; and

merging the bitmap representations of the text block, according to the boundary and according to a predefined flow rule, into the template.

9. (Original) A method for wrapping data to an arbitrary path defined by a page description language, comprising the steps of:

designating a path defined in a page description language specification as a wrapping path, the wrapping path having a boundary;

defining a graphics state for the path;

processing the specification to produce a template bitmap, the template bitmap being a bitmap or raster-data representation of a template image defined by the specification;

associating a text block with the wrapping path, the text block including a plurality of words and a delimiter;

creating bitmap representations of the text block by applying the graphics state to the text block; and

merging the bitmap representations of the text block, according to the boundary, according to a predefined flow rule and according to the delimiter, into the template.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the delimiter is a paragraph delimiter and the merging step includes the step of merging a bitmap representation of an indent or a line-space in place of the paragraph delimiter.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the delimiter is an end-of-page delimiter and the merging step includes the step of ceasing the merging of the bitmap representations of the text block into the template.

12. (Original) A method for wrapping data to an arbitrary path defined by a page description language, comprising the steps of:

- (a) designating a path defined in a page description language specification as a wrapping path, the wrapping path having a wrapping-path boundary;
- (b) defining a graphics state for the path;
- (c) processing the specification to produce a template bitmap, the template bitmap being a bitmap or raster-data representation of a template image defined by the specification;
- (d) saving the template bitmap in memory;
- (e) associating a block of text with the wrapping path;
- (f) creating bitmap representations of the block of text by applying the graphics state to the block of text;
- (g) retrieving a first copy of the template bitmap from memory;
- (h) merging the bitmap representations of the block of text, according to the boundary and according to the predefined flow rule, into the first copy of the template until an end of the boundary is reached;
- (i) upon reaching the end of the boundary, retrieving a next copy of the template bitmap from memory; and
- (j) merging a remainder of the bitmap representations of the block of text, according to the boundary and according to the predefined flow rule, into the next copy of the template.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A method for generating a multi-page document, such as a book, comprising the steps of:

- (a) accessing a page description language file, the page description language file defining at least a boundary;
- (b) accessing a text file external to page description language file;
- (c) associating the boundary with the text file;
- (d) accessing an attribute defining an aspect of the appearance of text data in a bitmap image;

(e) generating bitmap representations of text data in the text file and, during the generating step, applying the attribute to the text data;

(f) creating a page of the book by flowing the bitmap representations of the text data into the boundary until the bitmap representations fill the boundary; and

(g) creating a next page of the book by flowing the remainder of the bitmap representations of the text data into the boundary until the remainder of bitmap representations fill the boundary.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the creating step (g) is repeated for all of the remainder of bitmap representations.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the page description language file and the text file are defined in a job file external to the page description language file and the text file, and the method further includes the step of, prior to step (a), processing the job file to identify the external page description language file and the external text file.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of (h) dispatching the page and the next page to a printer.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the attribute is defined in the page description language file.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the attribute defined in the page description language file is associated with the boundary.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the boundary is defined by a path command and attribute is associated with a string command linked to the path command.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the attribute is part of a graphic state associated with the string command.

24. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the attribute is defined in a file external to the page description language file.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the attribute is defined in a job file.
26. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the text file includes a plurality of text blocks separated by delimiters.
27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the generating step (e) applies different attributes to at least two of the plurality of text blocks.
28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the creating steps (f) and (g) include a step of flowing a bitmap of an artistic image between at least two of the plurality of text blocks.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the method further includes the step of redefining the boundary for the page into which the bitmap of the artistic image has been flowed to include a perimeter of the artistic image.
30. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the text data is modified prior to the generating step (g) to insert personal information associated with an intended recipient of the multi-page document into the text data.

**REMARKS**

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this Amendment. Claims 1-12 and 16-30 are currently pending. Claims 16-30 are newly added. Claims 13-15 were previously canceled. For the reasons discussed in Applicant's Response